

# Handout - Wedging

Take This



**Mound of un-wedged clay**

Make This



**Ball of wedged clay**

**Read**

**Materials:** Recycled clay.



**Pulling clay out of the recycle bucket**

How much clay to wedge depends on what will be made with the clay. If making a very large project, it is often a good idea to wedge several smaller balls of clay and then combine them at the end.



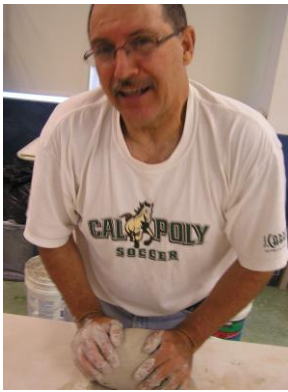
**Combine two balls of wedged clay by smashing them together**

**Wedge the clay:** Wedging is very much like kneading dough.



**This is someone making pizza dough**

Smash the clay into one ball; squish it with hands to begin the wedging. Begin the kneading processes by pushing the clay down into the table and away from your body. Next pull the dough back and push it down again. Wedging gets the air bubbles out of the clay, evens-out the consistency (no hard or soft parts), and removes the excess water. The wedging table is made of plaster of Paris covered with plywood and canvas. The table absorbs the excess water from the recycled clay. When wedging clay, it is important to put one foot behind the body about 2 to 3 feet; this allows the weight of your body to compress the clay. Lean slightly forward with your weight on your front leg and push down and forward with the lower part of your palms.



**Checking consistency of your clay--the best way to check if wedged clay is ready is to cut it in half with a wire tool.**



When the wedged clay is cut in half and there are no air bubbles or hard and soft spots, it is ready to use. If the clay is for throwing, form the clay into a ball.



**Making a ball of clay**

If you use your clay for slabbing, throw it down on the wedging table to get it ready for the slabbing machine



**Throwing the clay onto the wedging table and getting it ready for the slabbing machine**

**Watch** – the Video.

**Do** - This is when students put what they have learned into action.